

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-10 and 19-23 without prejudice or disclaimer.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1.-10 (Canceled)

11. (Original) In a knotting device including a knotting assembly having a gripper for selectively gripping one of two adjacent wire sections, a rotatable knotter operable to twist-knot the two adjacent wire sections, a cutting element for cutting of the other of said adjacent wire sections after twist-knotting of the sections and a shiftable cover located adjacent said knotter for maintaining the wire sections within the knotter during feeding said twist-knotting and thereafter movable to a wire-clearing position permitting passage of the twist-knotted wire sections from the knotter, the improvement which comprises an operator assembly for timed operation of said gripper, knotter, cutting element and cover, and a single drive assembly coupled with said operator assembly for effecting said timed operation.

12. (Original) The device of claim 11, said drive assembly comprising a piston and cylinder assembly including a reciprocal piston rod operably connected with said operator assembly.

13. (Original) The device of claim 11, said operator assembly including a pivotal shaft assembly carrying respective operator bodies for said gripper, knotter, cutting element and cover.

14. (Original) The device of claim 13, said cover attached to a mount for pivotal movement of the cover between said wire-maintaining position and said wire-clearing position, including a spring operably coupled with said cover mount for biasing the cover to said wire-maintaining position thereof, said cover operator body configured to engage said cover mount to move the cover from said wire-maintaining position to said wire-clearing position.

15. (Original) The device of claim 14, said cover mount permitting selective pivoting of the cover from said wire-maintaining position to a remote knotter access position and through an arc of at least about 90°.

16. (Original) The device of claim 15, said spring acting to maintain said cover in said knotter access position.

17. (Original) The device of claim 15, said knotter rotatably mounted on an elongated support body, said body being selectively rotatable when said cover is in said knotter access position to a non-operative position permitting ready replacement or repair of the knotter.

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Amdt. dated January 26, 2007

Reply to Office Action of December 26, 2006

18. (Original) The device of claim 17, including an upright frame member proximal to said knotter, said support body being releasably secured to said frame member and pivotal relative thereto to move the support body and knotter to said non-operative position.

19-23. (Canceled)